

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 4944

LIMDIS

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TAGS: FR, MILI, MPOL, PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON NATO STANDARDIZATION

REF: A. USNATO 4927 DTG 111545Z SEP 75

B. STATE 200959 DTG 222356Z AUG 75

C. STATE 176498 DTG 252330Z JUL 75

D. STATE 208189 DTG 022232Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: AMB BRUCE'S DISCUSSIONS WITH AMB DE ROSE (FRANCE)
ON STANDARDIZATION DISCLOSED CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE
FOR US INITIATIVE. DE ROSE INDICATED READINESS TO HAVE ISSUE
RAISED IN NAC NEXT WEEK AND SAW NEED FOR FOLLOW-UP MEETING A WEEK
LATER WHICH WOULD POINT TOWARD DEVELOPING A SUBSTANTIVE REPORT,
OR AT LEAST A PROGRESS REPORT,
FOR MINISTERS IN DECEMBER. DE ROSE ALSO BELIEVED THAT EARLY
NAC MEETING WOULD PERMIT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO TAKE BETTER
ADVANTAGE OF VISIT TO PARIS LATER THIS MONTH IN DISCUSSING
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STANDARDIZATION ISSUES. BASED ON DE ROSE'S COMMENTS, WE SEE
POSSIBLE DIVERGENCE WITH OUR VIEWS ON COMPOSITION OF STEERING
COMMITTEE BUT AWAIT HIS RESPONSE FROM PARIS ON THIS POINT.
ANOTHER ISSUE OF CONCERN TO FRANCE IS ESTABLISHING (OR BECOMING

PART OF) A EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION TO DEAL WITH THE US ON QUESTIONS INVOLVING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS. WE PLAN TO GO AHEAD WITH NAC MEETING ON STANDARDIZATION NEXT WEEK AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS WASHINGTON MAY HAVE ON POINTS TO MAKE. END SUMMARY.

1. AMB BRUCE CALLED ON AMB DE ROSE (FRANCE) SEPT 10 TO DISCUSS STANDARDIZATION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CALL ON AMB DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM), REPORTED REF A. AS DE STAERCKE HAD PREDICTED, DE ROSE NEEDED LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT AND WAS WELL AWARE OF US PLANS TOWARDS IMPROVING STANDARDIZATION IN NATO. DE ROSE WAS PREPARED TO HAVE ISSUE BROUGHT TO NAC ON A "SOONER THE BETTER" BASIS AND STATED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CREATE ANY SPECIAL DIFFICULTY FOR DISCUSSIONS IN NAC, WHICH HE SAW AS CLEARING THE GROUND IN PREPARATION FOR DECEMBER MINISTERIAL MEETING. DE ROSE CAUTIONED THAT FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN NAC DISCUSSIONS AND WORK OF A STEERING COMMITTEE WOULD BE ON UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE ANY FORM OF PRIOR COMMITMENT.

2. CONCERNING THE US PROPOSAL TO FORM A STEERING COMMITTEE, DE ROSE FELT THAT ITS EXACT FUNCTIONS NEEDED TO BE SPELLED OUT IN MORE DETAIL. DE ROSE SAW THE ROLE OF THE NAC AS BEING TO DISCUSS PRINCIPLES IN GENERAL TERMS AND ESTABLISH GOALS IN STANDARDIZATION, BUT HE ASKED WHEN US WOULD PROVIDE FURTHER ELABORATION CONCERNING ROLE OF STEERING COMMITTEE. AMB BRUCE RESPONDED THAT US SAW INITIAL TASK OF STEERING COMMITTEE AS DEVELOPING MORE DETAILED PRINCIPLES FOR COOPERATION IN STANDARDIZATION FOR MINISTERS TO CONSIDER IN DECEMBER. DE ROSE AGREED THAT A STEERING COMMITTEE WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE NAC ITSELF WOULD BE UNABLE TO ADDRESS FINE POINTS FOR COOPERATION IN STANDARDIZATION. HE THOUGHT COMMITTEE SHOULD INCLUDE BOTH SENIOR POLITICAL AND ARMAMENTS OFFICERS FROM DELEGATIONS, BUT DID NOT COMMENT ON US SUGGESTION TO INCLUDE SENIOR REPS FROM ALL NATIONS AS WELL AS ASYG'S FOR DEFENSE PLANNING AND POLICY AND DEFENSE SUPPORT, CHAIRMAN OF MAS AND MC REP, PROBABLY DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. COMMENT: BECAUSE OF SHEER NUMBERS INVOLVED WITH TWO REPS FROM EACH DELEGATION, WE CONFIDENTIAL

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BELIEVE DE ROSE MAY HAVE BEEN THINKING OF ONLY KEY NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN STEERING COMMITTEE, WHICH WOULD ACT AS DRAFTING GROUP ON BEHALF OF NAC. WE MADE CLEAR OUR VIEW THAT STEERING COMMITTEE SHOULD BE OPEN TO ALL NATIONS. END COMMENT.

3. AS FOR TIMING OF NAC DISCUSSIONS, DE ROSE SAID HE WAS READY FOR INITIAL MEETING NOW AND SUGGESTED HAVING ONE NEXT WEEK, POSSIBLY SEPT 17. HE OBSERVED THAT TIME IS SHORT AND WORK MUST START SOON IF WE EXPECT MINISTERS TO RECEIVE A GOOD REPORT BY DECEMBER AND ISSUE A MANDATE FOR FURTHER WORK. AS WITH OTHER AMBASSADORS, WE PROVIDED DE ROSE A COPY OF TALKING POINTS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF B AND A PAPER ON US

VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION WHICH WE PREPARED DRAWING ON REF C. DE ROSE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS ADVANCE INFORMATION AND STATED HE WOULD TAKE OUR PAPERS TO PARIS ON HIS PLANNED TRIP SEPT 11. HE WAS NOT SURE THAT HE WOULD HAVE INSTRUCTIONS ON THESE PAPERS BY NEXT WEEK, BUT THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE BY THE FOLLOWING WEEK. HE FELT NEXT WEEK'S NAC MEETING WOULD SERVE PURPOSE OF STARTING DISCUSSIONS; WHICH HE WAS PREPARED TO DO, AND ANOTHER MEETING WOULD BE REQUIRED IN ANY CASE. COMMENT: SINCE DE ROSE ALSO COMMENTED THAT HE HAD REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS BASED ON SYG LUNS' PROPOSAL AT SEPT 10 PERMREPS' LUNCHEON TO START WORK ON STANDARDIZATION, WE BELIEVE HE ALREADY HAD AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT PARTICIPATION IN INTIAL NAC STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS, WHICH IS ALL LUNS HAD ASKED. END COMMENT.

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4. IN PERHAPS HIS MOST FAR-REACHING COMMENT, DE ROSE STATED THAT FRANCE WILL INSIST ON NECESSITY OF SOME SORT OF EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION, OR "EUROPEAN ENTITY", TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE WITH THE US IN PURSUING GREATER TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION AND ARMAMENTS FLOW. HE NOTED THAT THIS IDEA HAS BEEN FLOATING AROUND FOR SOME TIME, AND HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN CNAD; FRANCE CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL. COMMENT: THE CONNECTION HERE, OF COURSE, IS THE EUROGROUP "TWO-WAY STREET" INITIATIVE. FRANCE'S DESIRES MIGHT BE SATISFIED IF EUROGROUP WERE TO PUT ANOTHER LABEL ON THIS WORK TO ACCOMMODATE FRANCE. SOME SENTIMENT EXISTS IN EUROGROUP TO DO THIS IF FRANCE WOULD

SIGN ON WITH A COOPERATIVE SPIRIT BUT EUROGROUP NATIONS ARE PROUD OF THEIR WORK, AND WARY OF POSSIBLE FRENCH "OBSTRUCTIONISM".
END COMMENT.

5. ON SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PARIS, DE ROSE THOUGHT THAT EARLY NAC DISCUSSIONS WOULD PROVIDE BETTER BASIS FOR THE
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SECRETARY TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS. DE ROSE DID NOT OFFER ANY SPECIFIC POINTS FOR SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO RAISE IN PARIS.

6. LOOKING AT GENERAL ASPECTS OF STANDARDIZATION, DE ROSE RECOGNIZED THE POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES BUT ALSO EMPHASIZED THE SCOPE OF PROBLEMS THAT HAVE TO BE FACED. BESIDES NATIONAL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS, DE ROSE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE. DE ROSE ASKED IF THE NMA'S WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING

REQUIREMENTS FOR WEAPONS SYSTEMS 15 YEARS IN THE FUTURE. DE ROSE OBSERVED THAT WE CANNOT CHANGE THE PRINCIPLE THAT LOGISTICS IS A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND NATO CANNOT DICTATE WHAT NATIONS SHOULD BUY. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE PRINCIPLES NATO ADOPTED IN ESTABLISHING THE CNAD IN 1966. FRANCE AGREED TO THESE PRINCIPLES ONLY THREE MONTHS AFTER WITHDRAWING FROM THE INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE. DE ROSE FELT THAT THESE CNAD PRINCIPLES STILL MADE SENSE AND SHOULD BE USED, EVEN IF AMENDED, IN RENEWED EFFORTS TO PROMOTE STANDARDIZATION.

7. DE ROSE RECALLED THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JUNE HE FOUND A GREAT DEAL OF CONSISTENCY BETWEEN U.S. AND FRENCH VIEWS ON STANDARDIZATION, ESPECIALLY IN HIS TALKS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ELLSWORTH. WITHOUT WANTING, HE SAID, TO SEEM OVERBEARING, DE ROSE STATED THAT THE SCOPE AND NATURE OF NATO STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS HAVE TO BE INFLUENCED, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, BY FRANCE, NATO'S SECOND GREATEST PRODUCER OF ARMAMENTS. WITH FRANCE, NATO'S WORK WOULD TAKE ONE PATH; WITHOUT FRANCE, THIS WORK WOULD STILL GO ON, PROBABLY UNDER THE DPC BUT WITHOUT THE ADVANTAGES OF A EUROPE-WIDE PERSPECTIVE.

8. COMMENT: DE ROSE CLEARLY WANTS FRANCE INVOLVED IN THIS WORK, AND HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO ENLIST AT LEAST SOME SUPPORT IN PARIS. BASED ON DE ROSE'S COMMENTS, WE SEE TWO ISSUES POSSIBLY AFFECTING THE CONTINUATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THIS SUPPORT. THE FIRST CONCERNS THE COMPOSITION AND ROLE OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE, WHICH MAY CAUSE POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN PARIS. WE WILL AWAIT DE ROSE'S RESPONSE TO OUR IDEAS, BUT WE SUGGEST THAT SOME FLEXIBILITY MAY
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BE USEFUL IN THE U.S. POSITION ON THIS QUESTION. THE SECOND ISSUE OF CONCERN TO FRANCE IS HOW IT COULD BECOME PART OF A "EUROPEAN ENTITY" TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S. IN TRANSATLANTIC ARMEMENTS COOPERATION. WHILE THIS IS ESSENTIALLY FRANCE'S PROBLEM, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD SUPPORT, EVEN QUIETLY ENCOURAGE, OPENING OF A WAY FOR FRANCE TO JOIN OTHER ALLIES IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE KIND CONDUCTED THUS FAR IN EUROGROUP. HOWEVER, OUR SUPPORT SHOULD STOP SHORT, WE BELIEVE, OF ALLOWING FRANCE TO UNDERMINE EFFECTIVE WORK OF EUROGROUP THAT HAS AIDED U.S., FOR EXAMPLE, IN DEALING WITH CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES FOR U.S. FORCE REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE.

9. OUR NEXT CONSULTATIONS WILL BE WITH CANADA AND ITALY ON SEPT. 11. WE BELIEVE WE ARE FAR ENOUGH ALONG IN CONSULTATIONS SO THAT IT WOULD BE TIMELY TO ASK SYG LUNS TO SCHEDULE AN INITIAL NAC MEETING ON STANDARDIZATION ON OR ABOUT SEPT. 17 WITH ANOTHER TO FOLLOW IN ABOUT A WEEK TO HEAR ALLIES' INSTRUCTED VIEWS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FLEXIBILITY WE WERE GIVEN BY REF D, WE WILL PROCEED ACCORDINGLY. IN INITIAL NAC DISCUSSION WE PLAN ONLY TO STATE THE OVERRIDING NEED FOR INCREASED CONVENTIONAL COMBAT CAPABILITY THROUGH STANDARDIZATION, PROPOSE A STEERING COMMITTEE ALONG LINES REF B, AND CIRCULATE "US VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES OF STANDARDIZATION", DRAWING ON REF C, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH MANY ALLIES ALREADY HAVE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER WASHINGTON SUGGESTIONS AS TO POINTS TO MAKE AT INITIAL NAC MEETING ON STANDARDIZATION, ESPECIALLY ON STEERING COMMITTEE. END COMMENT.
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